

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 19 Iss 12 2011-03-25

Dream a Dream

Paths less travelled

Blues Clues

The Africa connection

Piercing the Veil

The pen and the sword

Plus:

*The Mindful Bard, Cruiscin Lan,
From Where I Sit, and much more!*



CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE VOICE PDF

The Voice's interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

Features

Study Space: Distract Me3

Articles

Maghreb Voices: The Travelling Desert Blues Band, Part II5

Columns

Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan7

The Mindful Bard: Amanda Martinez8

From Where I Sit: All Work (and No Shopping) 10

Write Stuff: A Tiger's Tale 11

AUSU Update 14

News and Events

Notice: *Voice* Holiday7

Did You Know?.....9

Click of the Wrist 12

International News Desk 13

From our Readers

Letters to the Editor2

**The Voice
Magazine**

www.voicemagazine.org

1213, 10011 109th
Street NW
Edmonton AB
T5J 3S8

800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Email
voice@voicemagazine.org

Publisher
AU Students' Union

Editor-In-Chief
Tamra Ross

Managing Editor
Christina M. Frey

Regular Contributors
Hazel Anaka
Katie D'Souza
S.D. Livingston
Wanda Waterman St.
Louis

The Voice is published
every Friday in HTML
and PDF format.

For weekly email
reminders as each issue
is posted, fill out the
subscription form [here](#).

The Voice does not
share its subscriber list
with anyone.

Special thanks to
Athabasca University's
The Insider for its
frequent contributions.

© 2011 by *The Voice*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@voicemagazine.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.



STUDY SPACE

Maxie van Roye

Distract Me



Are you a daydreamer? Does your mind constantly wander? Do you think up your best ideas while taking a shower or going for a run? You're not crazy—and you're not alone.

According to some psychologists, certain settings are more conducive to creativity and invention—and it's not necessarily a quiet office with all the modern technological paraphernalia, or even a place where distractions are nil.

Scientists suggest that activities that don't require much "concentration on any aspect of the task at hand" lend themselves easily to inspiration. That means that if you're stuck on part two of an essay, it might be a good idea to take a break from it and do something simple to allow your mind to wander. Odds are good that the idea will eventually come to you if you let it.

Sound counterintuitive? It's difficult to justify purposeful daydreaming. After all, we're trained from early childhood that forward-focused is the only route to productivity. Isn't daydreaming the proverbial side path that leads to nowhere?

Perhaps not. We've all heard the adage about genius being only one per cent inspiration. But you still need that one per cent, and one of the best ways to delve into our hidden genius is to give ourselves the chance for positive distraction.

For example, it's believed that Albert Einstein conceived the theory of relativity while daydreaming—around the same time that he was expelled from school. And other Nobel Prize winners, inventors, and thinkers throughout history have found inspiration by allowing their brains to wander.

Physiologically, it's a function of our constantly-active brains. We're more than mere fight-or-flight; scientists are now realizing that "the brain is a pro-active system that is continually at work helping us solve problems and prepare for future demands."

"[W]hile we're proudly multi-tasking, our brains are so busy planning our next several moves that there's little room for the associative thought that leads to creative genius and inventive ideas."

In other words, when we're proudly multi-tasking, our brains are so busy planning our next several moves that there's little room for the associative thought that leads to creative genius and inventive ideas.

But when our brains are allowed to freely wander, with little else holding their attention, "one idea can trigger the next across a relatively unconstrained range of concepts and associations that might otherwise be viewed as completely unrelated."

The solution might be to start looking at our brains as another body part, one that needs daily care. We're urged to avoid eye strain when reading or working at the computer, so we adjust our monitors, ensure proper lighting, and look away from the screen (or page) periodically. We make an effort to give our eyes a break and a chance to refocus.

It may sound counterintuitive, but daydreaming can be productive. It allows our brains to recharge and refocus—and opens us up to our creative side.

Maybe it's an equally good idea to our brains a rest. There's plenty of advice recommending that we schedule in time out to pursue our hobbies and personal interests. But although these are important for recharging our enthusiasm and zest for life, they may not be sufficient.

We need to allow our minds to relax by letting them to engage, guilt-free, in positive daydreaming.

Unfortunately, this is a little difficult in practice. Unlike eyesight exercises, daydreaming isn't something we can necessarily schedule. According to scientists, our most productive daydreaming—when we're most likely to solve problems or, say, come up with the theory

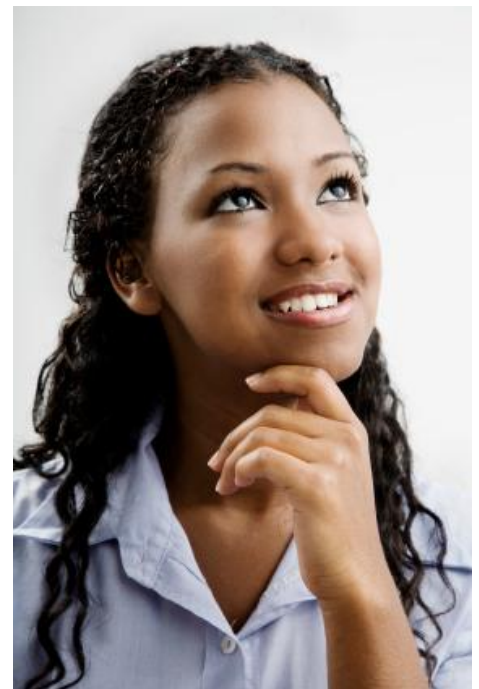
of relativity—happens when we're "unaware that we have drifted off."

However, we can condition ourselves to daydream productively. The Second Act, a productivity blog, offers some good suggestions for getting into the relaxed state necessary to get our minds out of overdrive. The author also recommends that we start by directing the focus of our daydreams—which gets us out of the habit of unproductive daydreaming (for example, obsessing over the rudeness of the other drivers this morning).

Performing some physical activity—particularly one that doesn't require a lot of step-by-step brain action—is also conducive problem-solving thought. Going for a run and taking a brisk walk are physically focused, and, although the brain is engaged, it's not so overtasked that it can't stray into the type of daydreaming that taps into our creative side.

Most of us struggle with procrastination, but the temptation to procrastinate may be linked to our brain's desperate desire to take a rest from all the input we throw at it. And regardless of whether we discover some great theory of physics or dream up a brilliant invention, we're doing our body and mind a favour by allowing ourselves the chance to positively daydream.

In fact, giving our brains a break may not only refresh and rejuvenate us, it may also open us up to new sources of inspiration and different ways of looking at the world—or at that assignment.



blues, whose tones were altered in response to the music of bagpipes and Hawaiian guitar and the simple beats and modal chants and ululations of traditional Native American music.

What uniquely parallel set of conditions created these two uniquely parallel musical forms? Of course many of the slaves who were forced to come to America were descended from these desert tribes. For those who believe in karma, it appears that it was simply the fate of these slaves to live out their traditional destinies in another country.

Moreover, both in America and in the Sahara regions, the musicians were deeply shaken by cultural genocide, poverty, diaspora, political repression, and brutality.

As a child, Tinariwen's founder, Ibrahim Ag Elabib, threw together homemade instruments, as had children in the Deep South. And he witnessed his father's execution, just as many children in the American South witnessed the lynchings of their fathers. Like the blues musicians, the Tuareg and Wodaabe tribes lived under repressive governments and social mores.

Saharan musicians tended to form loose collectives instead of bands, much like the northern Mississippi blues musicians, who tended to centre musical alliances around juke joints. The religious similarities include an intense spirituality that is more animist than monotheistic and a preoccupation with trance states and the world of spirits.

The blues aesthetic is one that embraces strangeness, tragedy, alienation, despair, rejection, violence, and raw sexual desire. The Saharan musical aesthetic is remarkably similar, suggesting an image of the musician as a marginalized forerunner of social change.

There's also the Jungian metaphorical similarity. Blues musicians had a traditional legend about meeting a dark man at a crossroads, a man who in exchange for your soul would teach you how to play guitar like a wizard. There is something profoundly meaningful in this notion of a crossroads—a place between two or more worlds, carnal and spiritual, white and black, northern and southern, government and grassroots,



freedom and authority, Arab and Berber. It is of particular deep significance to Saharan musical traditions, which have long developed in response to the mix of cultures that for years has been throwing sparks at the juncture between the Arab North and sub-Saharan South.

Back to my sound quest. Last year I reviewed a book called *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Music*. There was a passage in the book that described the music that was played in the square in the middle of Casablanca. This passage set me on a North African sound quest, which is now knee-deep into Saharan music. But even then I had the suspicion, nay, certainty, that political and aesthetic rejuvenation would enter the world by the portal of North Africa and that the implications of blues in the West for art and politics would be echoed and amplified by the desert blues in the Middle East.

The YouTube videos being traded around on Facebook just before the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia are a case in point.

(To be continued . . .)



NOTICE: VOICE HOLIDAY

Spring: it's all about sunshine and bunnies and eggs. For students, it's also about substantial endings—and beginnings. Whether you're approaching the final homestretch of your first course or getting ready to graduate in a few months, spring often means preparing to take some big steps.

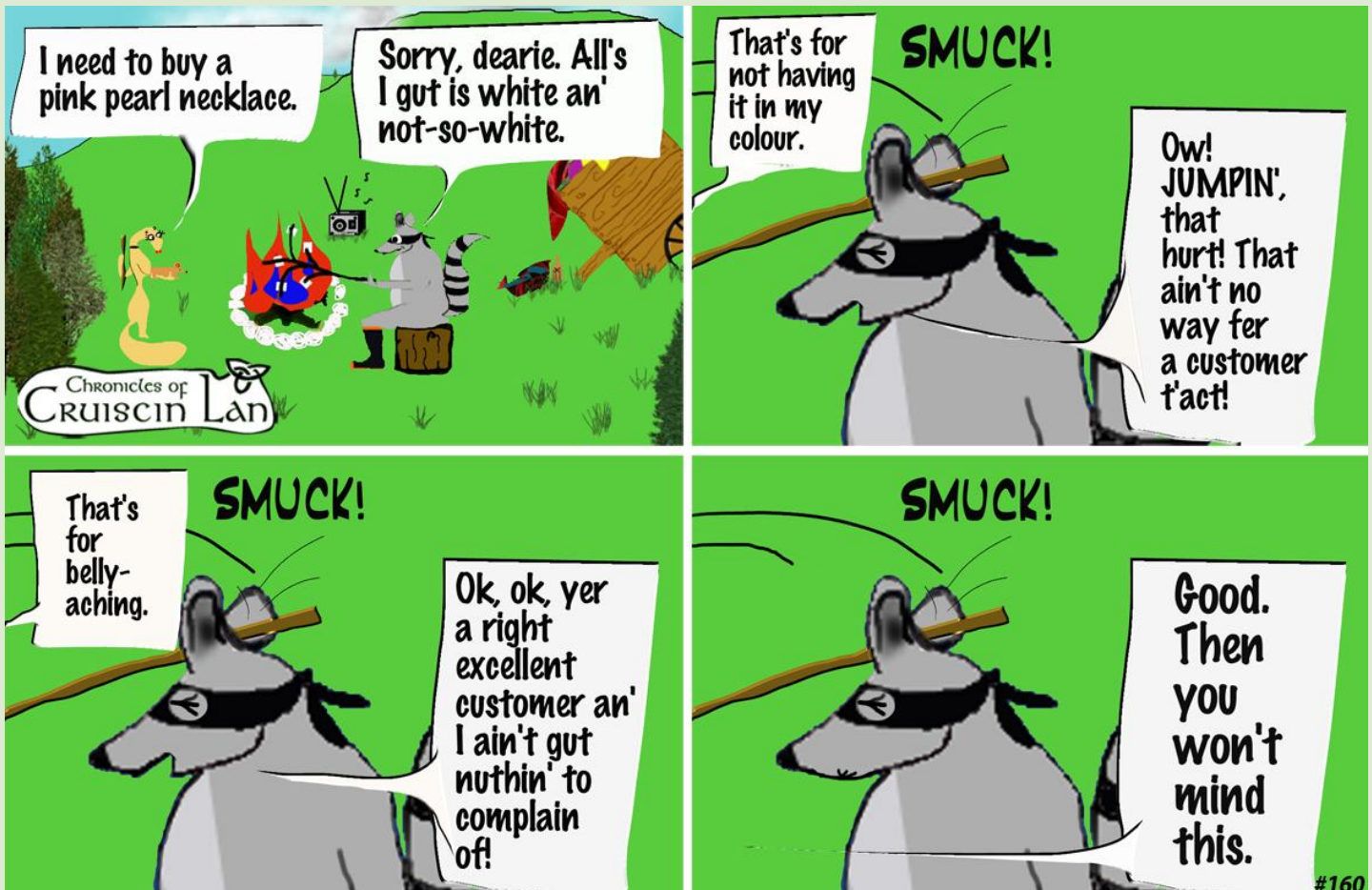
No wonder we all need a March break to refocus ourselves!

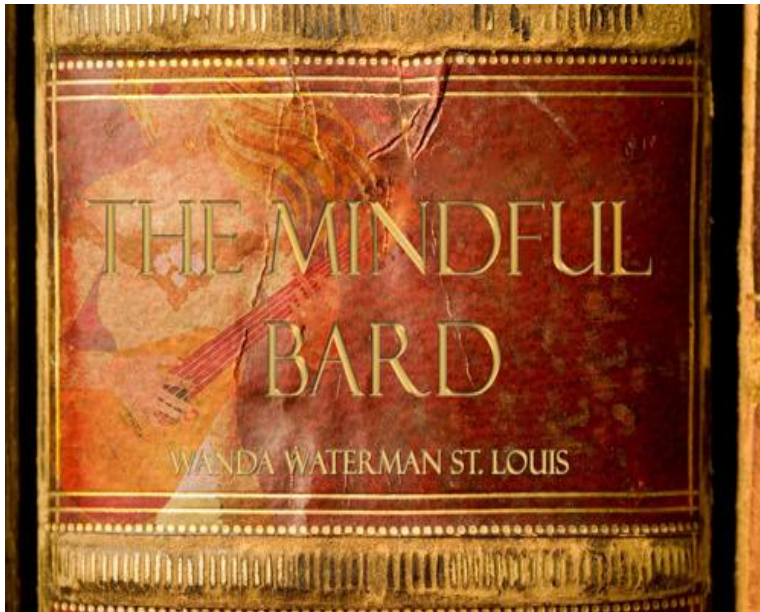
In that vein, *The Voice* will be on holiday next week, March 27-April 3. We'll be rejuvenating, re-energizing, and getting ready to continue entertaining, enlightening, and supporting you.

Then we'll be back with more of your favourite columns and topics, so be sure to look for our next issue on Friday, April 8. In the meantime, keep sending in your comments, letters, and submissions. We always love hearing from our readers!

CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN

Wanda Waterman St. Louis





Books, Music, and Film to Wake Up Your Muse and Help You Change the World

Album: Amanda Martinez, *Sola* (2006).

Musicians: Kevin Laliberte, guitar; Rosendo Leon Arocha Jr. “Chendy,” percussion; Osvaldo Rodriguez, violin and keyboards; Alexander Brown, trumpet.

Album: Amanda Martinez, *Amor* (2009)

Musicians: Kevin Laliberte, guitar; Rosendo Leon Arocha Jr. “Chendy,” percussion; Osvaldo Rodriguez, violin and keyboards; Alexander Brown, trumpet; Kevin Fox, cello; Robi Botos, piano; and Tom Szczesniak, accordion.

“Hey sir, your eyes are following my dance

It’s dangerous, sir, your charm with this gypsy girl

I am no shadow, sir

You’re playing with fire

I only tell you of my love

The wound that quickly healed.”

Amanda Martinez and Evaristo Machado, “Guajira Sola” (translation)

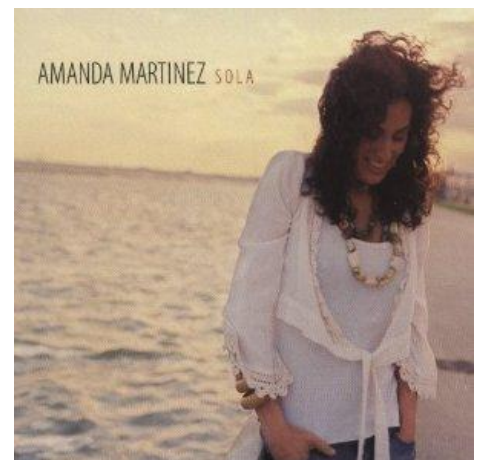
The Sonorous Latin Garden of Amanda Martinez

Spawned in the rich cultural stew that is Toronto, Martinez was the perfect choice to sing in Johannesburg, South Africa for the 2010 World Cup’s opening game—a game which happened to be between Mexico (her father’s country) and South Africa (her mother’s country).

This woman’s talent, creativity, authenticity, and stage presence are all gasp-worthy. Her songs embody all of the gusto, lust for life, indomitable spirit, sense of nostalgia, tragic cavalier sadness, and jubilant celebration of life’s simplest pleasures that we find in the traditional Latin musical forms. At the same time we get glimpses of an optimism and love of freedom that’s thoroughly forward-looking.

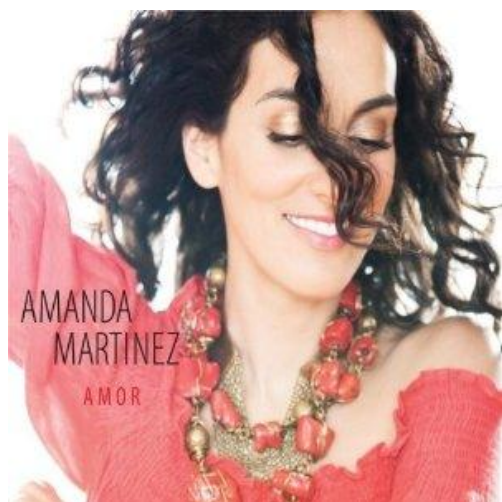
The recording quality is wonderful, and much of the credit for this must go to George Seara (one of the brains behind superlative recordings by Holly Cole, Herbie Hancock, and Sting), who co-produced *Sola* and solo-produced *Amor*.

These two albums also boast an outstanding line-up of jazz musicians;



delightful surprises wait at the end of each chord sequence, and the band is unwaveringly watertight while giving the sense of rushing ahead with the speed and grace of Olympic gymnasts. Osvaldo Rodriguez notably provides an abundance of thrilling little musical gems in his piano playing, and the violin is as anguished as a new widow.

Amanda has a rich, resonant, expressive voice that sounds effortless and unhesitant, and she includes all those special vocal touches—like the little half-yodel where the voice breaks on leaping for a high note, the breathy little segues, the sad moans—that make for a true Latin feel. The lyrics she pens are so Latin in flavour that it's hard to believe they were written only recently, and by a Canadian. All the elements of tango—the terrible nostalgic yearning for a lost past, the love longing, the sense of having been betrayed, and the urge to drown one's sorrows in dance—are here in abundance. But at the same time it all sounds new.



Many sing of pain, but few can make you both feel it and transcend it like this.

The music of Amanda Martinez manifests six of The Mindful Bard's criteria for music well worth a listen: 1) it's authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it makes me want to be a better artist; 3) it displays an engagement with and compassionate response to suffering; 4) it inspires an awareness of the sanctity of creation; 5) it provides respite from a sick and cruel world, a respite enabling me to renew myself for a return to mindful artistic endeavour; and 6) it makes me appreciate that life is a complex and rare phenomenon, making living a unique opportunity.



DID YOU KNOW? ERIC

Education majors will want to enlist the aid of the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), an “online digital library of education research and information.” This web resource, which is operated by the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, is a fantastic research aid, particularly for students who are in upper-level classes or pursuing graduate work.

ERIC contains a “searchable, Internet-based bibliographic and full-text database of education research and information.” It's the perfect springboard for beginning research. And although users need to register in order to customize the site fully, the resource itself is completely free.

It's also easy to use. Even if you're not sure of your exact search terms, ERIC sponsors a tailored thesaurus which will help you narrow broader topics to the more specific information you're looking for.

Although ERIC provides some full-text articles, and hopes to increase its collection in the future, a number of the articles in its database are only available in synopsis form due to copyright restrictions. However, ERIC provides full bibliographic and contact information for both the articles and the journals in which they appear. Using ERIC in conjunction with journal databases like those available through AU's library allows broader access to the actual articles. Regardless, ERIC greatly facilitates locating the materials necessary for any education research.



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

All Work (and No Shopping) Makes Hazel a Dull Girl

With Roy's new role as municipal councillor comes the opportunity, indeed the necessity, of attending conferences on governance and his related committee duties. In the past month, he has been to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and twice to Edmonton for stays of three days or more. In each case, I've tagged along on our own nickel.

For me the Louisiana trip was pure recreation. I was able to do a lot of touristy things because one of the other companions had rented a car. Wayne's generosity in acting as chauffeur to me and another wife, Carolyn, has forever earned him a place in my heart. I've also got two Kenneth Cole handbags from the Tanger Outlet mall to remind me!

More recently I've been accompanying Roy to Edmonton. Each time, I've packed my laptop and all the paperwork that I need for the project I'm working on. I consider the arrangement win-win. I get to spend some free time with him instead of turning into a political widow, and I manage to fill my days with time-sensitive work that won't tolerate extended absences.

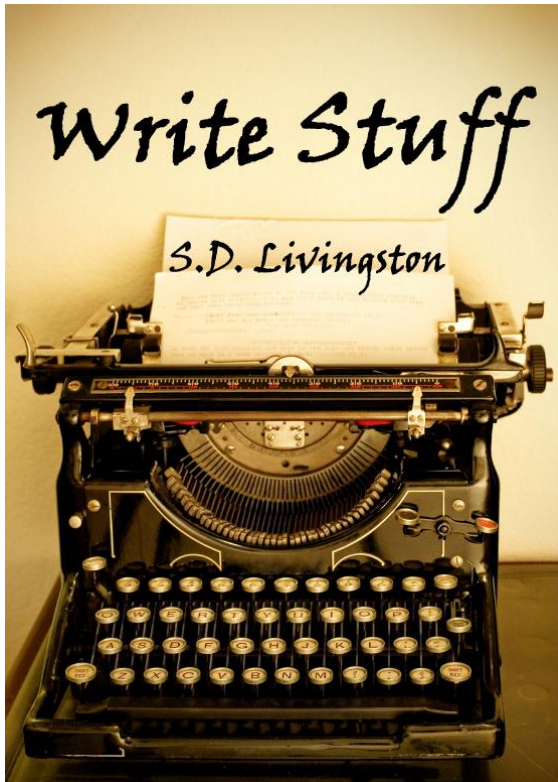
I'm getting quite good at packing what I need as compactly as I can. I use a medium-sized wheeled suitcase so I can pack the laptop, keyboard, wireless mouse, support straps for my repetitive stress injuries, project binder, and files. I think the laptop is less of a theft magnet because it's disguised in this way. Also on board is a pencil case with assorted pens, highlighters, a memory stick, and Post-It flags.

This is my *modus operandi*: unpack and set up my mini, temporary, portable command centre. It seems that most hotels are now bending over backwards to meet the needs of working guests. The desks are bigger and the chairs are firm. The last two hotels had free Wi-Fi, which makes my heart sing. The miracle of email allows total freedom to work from virtually anywhere, and no one is the wiser. My iPhone is the ultimate tool for keeping track of contact information for everyone I'm dealing with. The adequate desk lamp has an

outlet built into the base for plugging in the computer. The last hotel offered free local phone calls; so much friendlier than the buck a call at the current one. That allowed me to contact some of the chefs I'm attempting to invite to our food tasting event.

Having Edmonton as my home base, even temporarily, allows me to do the running around locating sources and getting price quotes that is key to staging a successful event. As efficient as email and voice mail are, sometimes looking at someone eyeball to eyeball is the shortest distance to a successful working relationship.

So even though the 400 stores and services in Edmonton City Centre are just a pedway walk away, for now I'm being a good girl tethered to my computer, working, working, working. Hopefully there's a shopping break in my future, from where I sit.



A Tiger's Tale

It's tough being a celebrity. Not the money-fame-glamour part, but the part where people decide to write tell-all books that reveal things you'd rather not share with the world. Most celebrities have enough money to stop those books cold on the presses, but what if someone decided to write a revealing book about you? Even worse, what if that person was your parent and she went into overshare mode when you weren't old enough to protest—or to understand how profoundly it could affect the rest of your life?

A recent case is Amy Chua's *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. If you haven't seen any of the debate swirling around it, the book concerns Chua's extreme parenting style: no play dates, no school plays, nothing less than absolute academic and musical perfection. To mould such high-achieving youngsters, Chua used techniques like threatening to burn one daughter's stuffed animals and throwing her children's handmade birthday cards back at them because the quality wasn't high enough. She's even admitted to telling her bright,

accomplished daughters that they're "garbage."

No one's criticizing Chua's skills as an author. She's the John M. Duff, Jr. Professor of Law at Yale Law School, and her first book, *World on Fire*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and an *Economist* magazine Best Book of the Year. And it's not about whether you agree with her parenting style. The question is, does she have the right to sell details of her children's private lives to the world?

According to the [Citizen Media Law Project](#), a research centre hosted by Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society, "the legal claim known as 'publication of private facts' is a species of invasion of privacy." In order to qualify as invasion of privacy, private facts that are published must be "offensive to a reasonable person" as well as "not legitimately newsworthy." I don't know about you, but I'd be offended if my personal life (good, bad, or indifferent) were sold to the public without my permission.

For some reason, putting kids on reality TV shows seems to draw more debate on the matter. When it comes to shows like *Jon & Kate Plus 8* or *Raising Sextuplets*, there's plenty of criticism about whether the children's daily lives are appropriate for public consumption. Perhaps it's because the kids must cope with the intrusion of cameras and crews following them around—a situation that can be stressful even for adults who agree to be filmed.

"Publication of private facts" is considered to be a form of invasion of privacy.

At what point do authors cross the line when they reveal personal details about family and friends?

But how will Chua's disclosures affect her daughters at school, or even when they begin their careers? The microscope of public curiosity might fade for Chua, but her children will forever be known as the highly

regimented offspring of the Tiger Mother—a stigma that could well affect them in job interviews or even in dating. The fallout could also influence the way their own children’s teachers interact with them.

Clearly, Chua has given her children everything she thinks they need: discipline, education, social advantages. But I can’t help thinking she’s denied them something even more important. And that’s the dignity of respecting their right to privacy.

CLICK OF THE WRIST: Play the Fool

In another week we’ll all have a laugh as April 1st rolls around and the pranks multiply around the globe. At the same time, we’ll have the uncanny sense of being unable to trust anyone, because even the most serious-minded person might loosen up on April Fool’s Day and try to pull our leg. The origins of April Fool’s Day are disputed, but one thing is certain: if you’re the victim of a prank, it seems a lot funnier on April 2! This week’s links explore the hilarity that is prankdom.

Power of a Crowd

One increasingly popular in-joke is the flash mob—a group of people who have prearranged (often via social media) to perform some unusual action, like freezing or breaking into dance, in the middle of a public place. Improv Everywhere is one “prank collective” that proudly organizes public pranks, both with individuals and groups. Their video-heavy blog allows Internet followers to watch the events play out.

Cry Wolf

If April Fool’s Day jokes are standard fare, what happens if something newsworthy really does occur on April 1? It’s happened before—a tsunami that killed over 150 people in Hawaii, for example. Check out NowPublic’s list of the top real news events that coincided with all the false reports.

Medium and Message

Pranks: silly joke or social commentary? It’s the latter, according to “professional hoaxer” Joey Skaggs, who successfully uses the media to spread his hoaxes to the public. Skaggs wants people to think as well as laugh, and his use of pranks as a means of skewering hot topics, current events, and trends is intriguing. Read his personal manifesto to learn why he does what he does.

Art of the Prank

Ironically, pranking is becoming a sub-culture of its own. Art of the Prank, Joey Skaggs’ blog, tracks the here and now of worldwide pranking news, views, and trends.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: Wine Fake

Imagine settling down one evening with a bottle of fine wine from an established winery. Setting out the glasses. Uncorking the bottle. Pouring the wine. Taking a sip, and discovering that its quality is appalling—and that it’s a fake.

Recently, that’s what happened to several Ontario wine connoisseurs. As the *Toronto Star* [reports](#), the Liquor Control Board of Ontario is investigating a rash of fake bottles of 2006 Negrar Amarone Classico, a “highly-praised style of wine made from partly-dried grapes.” The bottle retails for \$35.

The fraud was discovered when dissatisfied customers returned the counterfeit wine to the LCBO, where “staff noticed the bottles looked slightly different than legitimate versions.” Besides the taste and texture, there are visible clues that the wine’s a fake. The counterfeit bottle is noticeably smaller, and the identifying number on the bottom is the same for all the fake bottles, rather than different for each one.

The legitimate winery has been operating for over 40 years, and its owners were “devastated” by the discovery, as Stephen Campbell, president of Lifford-Schiralli Agency (which is licensed to import Negrar to Ontario) told reporters. However, they may feel confident that their reputation for quality will not diminish among true connoisseurs. As LCBO spokesperson Chris Layton told reporters, “Anyone who knows Amarone would know this wasn’t it.”

Around the World: Moon Storm

Rain is an essential part of the earth’s water cycle—and of many of the planet’s ecosystems. And although sloshing through the wet can sometimes seem like a pain, we recognize that a rainfall is usually a harbinger of new life, of refreshment.

But not all spring showers are as life-giving as gentle (or torrential) rain. As the *National Geographic*’s Daily News site [reports](#), Saturn’s largest moon, Titan, recently experienced some showers of its own—and they were “made of liquid methane, a substance found on Earth . . . in natural gas.”

In fact, it’s believed that “Titan has a ‘methane cycle’ similar to Earth’s water cycle.”

While scientists had previously discovered “methane lakes” at the moon’s poles and “fog over th[ose] lakes and lake effect clouds,” they hadn’t seen rainclouds and the after-effects of showers in areas distant from the poles. But recently, a “massive cloud form[ed] near Titan’s equator,” and subsequent darkening and lightening of the dunes below indicate that rain may have fallen and then begun to evaporate.

More studies are needed to determine the volume of the rainfall.

AUSU UPDATE



Convocation 2010

AUSU wishes to congratulate this year's graduates, whether attending Convocation in person or by distance. We wish you the best of luck in your future pursuits. You are an inspiration to all AU students!

AUSU Executive Election

AUSU has recently held its internal election for the Executive. We wish to congratulate Barbara Rielly (President), Bethany Tynes (Vice President External and Student Affairs) and Sarah Kertcher (Vice President Finance and Administration) on their election and thank those that ran for their willingness to serve.

Internal elections are being held to determine committee membership and we expect that all will be in place shortly. Our new Council is taking its bearings and has already begun to set the direction for this term.

Student Issues

AUSU recently completed a compilation of reported student issues covering a two year period; all issues were recorded in such a way as to ensure that student information remains protected and private. This effort confirmed what we long suspected; that tutor problems were the single biggest issue faced by our students (56 of 120 complaints).

Outdated course materials and errors in texts continue to be reported as well as were exam issues, slowness of the transfer process, and the scantiness of information in School of Business FAQs. Over that two year period there was a decrease in the number of complaints about student financing, exam request problems, difficulty registering in more than six courses, and materials shortages for courses. Kudos to AU for improving in those areas. Now if we could only get the Tutors' Union to the table . . .

New 2010 AUSU Handbook/Planners – Arrived!

Finally! People have already started receiving the new planners in the mail, and we're currently shipping them out as fast as the orders come in. Full of useful information about AUSU, writing styles, course grading, great finds online for your studies that you may not have known about, as well as having places to write down your phone numbers, keep track of your assignments, and, oh yeah, a year's worth of calendar to plan out your schedule too. We'll give one free to each AUSU member just for the asking.

Remember, though, we only print a limited number of these each year, so when they're gone, they're gone.

Let 'em Know who Represents for You!

AUSU logo mugs, hoodies, USB keys, and much more are all available for sale from our office. Also, used locks can be purchased at half price! Check out our merchandise catalog on our front page. You should

check out our hoodies in particular—made in Canada and 100% bamboo, we're offering them for just barely over our cost, and they're both durable and comfortable.

And if you have new little ones in your family, or know somebody who does, check out our baby onesies. Made by American Apparel, these onesies are high quality and let folks know your kids are growing up to great things as a "Future Graduate of Athabasca U"

AUSU Scheduling Meeting with Tutors' Union – Not really an Update

Some things resist change. We're still waiting for a response from the Tutor's Union as to when we might be able to meet with them to discuss ways that AUSU and the Tutor's Union can work together to ensure that students are getting the contact they need. Unfortunately, they haven't yet replied, so we're stepping up our campaign to get in touch with them. If you want to help, the next time you're talking to your tutor, ask them if they know when the Tutor's Union will meet with AUSU so that the groups can work together on common issues.

Our statistics we've been collecting from the forums and your calls show that issues with tutors - specifically the amount of time taken for marking assignments and exams are your number one concern. Help us help you.

SmartDraw Program Renewal

Some of you who took advantage of our program to provide SmartDraw software to members have been getting notifications that your software license will soon be expiring. Fortunately, AUSU will be continuing this program, so if you haven't already, go to the AUSU home page to download the newest version.

SmartDraw allows you to create a wide range of graphics for your assignments and submit them electronically in a Word file. You can also place your graphics in Excel or PowerPoint files, or export them as TIF, GIF, or JPEG files to make a web graphic or even a logo. Just a few of the graphics you can make include Venn diagrams, genetics charts, graphs, organizational and flow charts, and Gantt charts.







For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email.

Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she prefers. Your tutor does not have to have SmartDraw to view these graphics, however. Installations under this program are good for one year. The package includes both the Standard and Health Care editions of SmartDraw.

AUSU
Representing AU
Undergrads

Student Gear

2009 merchandise

Clothing
Technology
Fun Items
Home Decor

Fostering the Student Community
AUSU and Voice gear is intended to support your studies and help you feel like part of the AU student community. Suggestions for new items are welcome. Contact our office with any questions.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@voicemagazine.org for more information.

THE VOICE

1213, 10011 109th Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8 - Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
Editor-In-Chief Tamra Ross
Managing Editor Christina M. Frey

Regular Columnists Hazel Anaka, Katie D'Souza, S.D. Livingston, Wanda Waterman
St. Louis

www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every Friday in HTML and PDF format.

Contact *The Voice* at voice@voicemagazine.org.

To receive a weekly email announcing each issue, subscribe [here](#). *The Voice* does not share its subscriber list.
Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions.